

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (11/11/20)

Research Degrees in the Oxford Internet Institute

Brief note about nature of change: Replace the 'Social Dynamics of the Internet' course with a new bespoke 'Advanced Social Theory' course.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2020*,

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=rdtoxfointeinst&srchYear=2020&srchTerm=1&year=2019&term=1>

Effective date

From MT 2020

Detail of change

1.5 3. Probationer Research Students

1.6 All students are normally admitted as Probationer Research Students.

1.7 Unless granted a dispensation by the Graduate Studies Committee, all Probationer Research Students shall during their first year (and second year in the case of part-time students) attend such lectures, seminars, and classes as their supervisor and/or the Graduate Studies Committee shall determine.

1.8 Students studying Information, Communication and Social Sciences shall attend and satisfactorily complete with a mark of 50 or higher:

1.9 (a) such courses or classes from the Institute's Research Methods Training Programme as directed by the Graduate Studies Committee;

1.10 (b) the Institute's Advanced Social Theory ~~Social Dynamics of the Internet~~ course.

1.11 Students studying Social Data Science shall attend and satisfactorily complete with a passing mark of 50 or higher such courses or classes as directed by the Social Data Science Graduate Studies Committee.

Explanatory Notes

Students enrolled on the DPhil Information Communication and the Social Sciences are required, typically in their first term, to take and pass a number of courses. One of these is

a general social theory course titled *Social Dynamics of the Internet*. For that past 11 years, the course has consisted of inviting DPhil students to attend a series of lectures from the MSc *Social Science of the Internet*, with DPhil students then completing a summative essay at the end of the course. A new bespoke DPhil-level theory course will be introduced to provide theoretical material to a higher level of sophistication, put more emphasis on discussion and seminar-style learning, and better developed students' skills as producers of original theoretical research. DPhil students will be able to audit the existing MSc-level *Social Dynamics of the Internet* lectures, but it is anticipated that the new syllabus will comprehensively cover their needs.

There will be no changes to the assessment arrangements.